

GEOGRAPHY KEY STAGE 3

Course Aims:

The aims of the Key Stage 3 Geography course are to:

- Stimulate an interest in and a sense of wonder about places.
- Help young people make sense of a complex and dynamically changing world.
- Explain where places are, how places and landscapes are formed, how people and their environment interact, and how a diverse range of economies, societies and environments are interconnected.
- Build on pupils' own experiences to investigate places at all scales, from the personal to the global.

Geographical enquiry encourages questioning, investigation and critical thinking about issues affecting the world and people's lives, now and in the future. We believe that fieldwork is an essential element of this. Pupils learn to think spatially and use maps, visual images and new technologies, including geographical information systems (GIS), to obtain, present and analyse information. Geography inspires pupils to become global citizens by exploring their own place in the world, their values and their responsibilities to other people, to the environment and to the sustainability of the planet.

Skills Required and Course Content:

	Autumn	Spring	Summer
7	Fantastic World Developing knowledge and understanding of patterns and processes <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Durdle Door processes • Independent enquiry 	Threatened World Using different research and fieldwork skills to investigate ecosystems <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Amazon poster • Woodland enquiry 	I am Geography An enquiry-based unit looking at how geography relates to our lives <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • UK places test • Independent enquiry
8	Record Breakers Highest, longest, richest: An investigation into our record-breaking world. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Rivers test • Independent enquiry 	Nature Fights Back Research and investigation into a variety of natural hazards <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Hazards test 1 • Hazards test 2 	Cities Making decisions about how cities can be managed sustainably <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • World tour website • Olympics assessment
9	Trade & Development Using data to investigate the differences between countries <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Trade assessment • HIV assessment 	Asia An in-depth study of this rapidly changing region and how it affects us <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Russia assessment • Independent enquiry 	Geographical decisions A synoptic unit examining weather and population in Australia <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Weather test • Decision exercise

Assessment and Deadlines:

Students will be assessed several times during each unit. The assessments vary in style and approach to allow students to demonstrate a range of strengths and skills. At the beginning of year 7 the students are provided with a portfolio, the first page of which is a National Curriculum level grid: this grid is used to mark all assessed work throughout key stage 3. Prior to each assessment the students will be informed of which strands of the national curriculum they will be assessed on, as well as being issued with specific success criteria for the task: it is important that the students familiarise themselves with this material.

As a department we are making use of the school's new virtual learning environment: the Smart Cloud. Individual course overviews are being produced for each unit (SBS log-in required: please be aware that not all units have an overview on the learning portfolio yet). These can be found on the geography website <http://goo.gl/DHKed>

Extended Learning:

The Humanities homework club is run once a week and is an opportunity for students to take advantage of departmental resources and ask for any extra assistance they may require with work. It is open to students of all abilities and ages.

The departmental website (www.simonballegeography.wordpress.com) and the Smart Cloud (accessed through the main school website) are used to alert students to wider reading opportunities, deliver homework and provide assessment materials electronically. Subscribing to website will ensure that they are kept up to date with the latest news.

Homework is set when appropriate. It will usually consist of 1 piece per week and will last for approximately 30 to 40 minutes. On occasions when no formal homework has been set the students will be expected to conduct their own independent study: this may take the form of reading a newspaper or using the internet to find out about topical geographical issues. The Geography in the News section of our website is a particularly useful starting point or this.

We communicate with the students via their Simon Balle email address: we expect them to be checking this regularly. Students should use this email address to contact us if they need help or guidance with a task.

The most up to date version of this document can be found on the geography website <http://goo.gl/5KQcc>